



# PRESS RELEASE Arizona State Senate

1700 W Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

## Senator Leah Landrum Taylor, LD27

### PRESS RELEASE

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## Landrum Taylor bills on the move

*Will fund grand families stipend, AZ Commission on African-American Affairs*

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Senator Leah Landrum Taylor has two bills currently making their way through the Senate that would support grandparents who are raising grandchildren and fund the Arizona Commission of African-American Affairs.

SB 1346 appropriates an additional \$1.5 million to fund monthly stipends of \$75 per child for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. This would add to the \$1 million appropriated last year for a total of \$2.5 million available in fiscal year 2015. It passed unanimously out of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and awaits approval in Appropriations, Rules and the Senate as a whole before heading to the House of Representatives.

*"Research has shown children in kinship care are better able to adjust to their new environment and are less likely to experience behavioral problems than those in the general foster care population," said Sen. Landrum Taylor. "With last year's funding of this effort, Arizona's grand families are now receiving much-needed stipends to pay for essentials like shoes, clothes, school supplies and food. This additional funding will expand the stipend to help cover the more than 1,000 foster children who are cared for by their grandparents."*

SB 1137 appropriates \$125,000 to fund the Arizona Commission of African-American Affairs, an office that was established by executive order in 2006 and in statute by a 2010 Sen. Landrum Taylor bill. It passed unanimously out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and awaits approval by the Senate as a whole before heading to the House of Representatives.

*"The Arizona Commission of African-American Affairs plays a critical role advising the Governor on policies and legislation relating to African-American community issues in Arizona, assisting local African-American groups in expanding and enhancing the social, cultural and economic status of the community, and working for greater understanding and improved relationships between the African-American and non-African American communities in our state," said Sen. Landrum Taylor. "I am gratified that the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee recognized the important role the Commission plays in our state's civic affairs."*

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